

Conservation Advisory Council—C.A.C.

Special Meeting 7/24/09

Members Present: Julie Noble, Allison Taylor, Judith Deming, Valeria Gheorghiu, Felipa Gaudet, Elizabeth Higgins, Andrew Meyer, Gregg Swanzey

Meeting Called to Order: 6:39pm

Julie reviewed our last meeting 7/08/09.

Paul Kirby (Freeman)—wants to do an article on either the Green jobs Pledge or Climate Smart Communities Pledge.

Julie listed other communities that are Climate Smart Communities (Ithaca, New Rochelle, Saugerties)

Valeria shared that there are funding opportunities through the Green Jobs and Justice Act. The Act will be formally passed by Sept. Valeria will email information to each board member.

Liz worried if we do a Green Jobs Pledge we will offend existing businesses. We need to make Kingston a place where people and businesses will come to us. She also stated we need to improve transportation and the sewer system, pouring money into our infrastructure. Should we make a list of existing businesses that are “green?”

Judy suggested we speak with other communities to discuss the process of becoming a Climate Smart community. Felipa 2<sup>nd</sup> idea.

Valeria want to do a survey of local non-profit organizations to see how receptive they are to work in the area of “green jobs.”

Gregg—question---Are we the group to take on this with the Common council? What about the Solar Consortium?

Valeria suggested we recommend supporting green economy---only contract with conscientious companies (green energy.) She also stated that the Green Jobs Pledge works well with our community due to the poverty stricken community members.

Gregg—How do we present something and then become involved?

Valeria---We should offer that we can find businesses too.

Liz recommends that we go for the Climate Smart Community Pledge. She thinks it is a broad plan and not narrowly focused on Green Jobs.

Valeria pointed out #9---local government contracts for energy of Climate Smart Communities.

Gregg thinks we should rewrite proposals and remove scary language that may overwhelm or intimidate people involved.

We need to write a letter to local businesses asking for support.

Liz suggested some language be used in the letter—opportunity for spending reduction, comprehensive vision, and its time for community to become a front runner in Federal/State push for Climate/Green initiatives.

Valeria thinks we should modify existing pledge (model) before we send the letter.

Liz---add a----- whereas that includes reduction of spending.

Our next meeting will be Aug. 12, 2009. Laws and Rules Committee meets Aug. 20, 2009.

We need to develop an action plan for next few weeks.

**Action Plan:**

1. Get letters of support. Aug. 6, 2009 for wording of letters. Email to follow

Aug. 12, 2009 for letters/approval

2. Groups formed---letters of support group

---Climate Smart Pledge group---to review/revise model

#8 needs to add elements of the Green Job Pledge—offering ourselves for

implementation (Steve/or city employee), and a whereas that is more fitting to Kingston, and

Kingston reducing our carbon footprint.

3. Letters to be written—1. Laws and Rules---Julie/Steve(by 8/7/09)

2. For Businesses—Felipa(8/6/09)

4. Group to work on the Resolution/Pledge---Gregg, Andrew, Valeria

5. Team finalization—8/7/09----Final Approval 8/12/09

Liz has a new email---it is [emh56@cornell.edu](mailto:emh56@cornell.edu)

Meeting Adjourned—8:58pm